



# Howard County Happenings *with Allan H. Kittleman*

May 2016

## A Message from the County Executive



With the advent of May, thoughts turn to nicer weather, summer vacations and camps, and spending time outside. In Howard County, residents have many options with our parks and summer programs. I hope you will be able to get out and enjoy them. We are doing our part to support fitness this Spring with walking and biking opportunities, like [Cycle2Health](#), Bike-to-School and Bike-to-Work days and new [Bikeshare](#) and HoCoWalks initiatives. We offer many [Recreation and Parks activities, camps and classes](#), and are expanding quality food options through the Roving Radish.

The [FY 2017 budget process](#) will be finalized this month as well. After the County Council finishes reviewing my proposed Capital and Operating Budgets through a series of work sessions and public hearings, a final budget will be approved May 26. We are working hard to meet as many needs as possible while staying within our means.

This month, I am honored to offer some well-deserved recognition. Congratulations to the Howard County high school students on their graduation and best wishes to them as they move on to the next stage. Also, thank you to all the servicemembers who sacrificed their lives for our safety and freedom as we honor them on Memorial Day (May 30).

## Join HoCoWalks

Don't miss the first [HoCoWalks](#) event on June 4 at 9 a.m. at Western Regional Park. County Executive Kittleman will launch a new walking initiative to demonstrate how simple it is to start a fitness program. Head out any time from 9 to 11 a.m. and enjoy nutritious snacks from the Roving Radish. Walks will take place year-round on the first Saturday of each month in different locations. Routes are selected for accessibility and vary from 1 to 2 miles. No registration is required. In case of inclement weather, check [www.howardcountymd.gov/hocowalks](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/hocowalks) or call the weather line at 410-313-4452.



*Starting in June!*



*11 new access points can handle 1,000 connections simultaneously*

## FreeHoCoGovWiFi now at Columbia Lakefront

Columbia Lakefront visitors now can access [FreeHoCoGovWiFi](#) to connect with friends or check out dining and entertainment options. Executive Kittleman recently announced this initiative to provide robust, high-speed internet connectivity throughout Downtown Columbia by leveraging the ICBN fiber network at no expense to taxpayers. The service is

also provided to Historic Ellicott City, Meadowbrook Athletic Complex and Troy Park in Elkridge. In a recent 30-day period, 2,100 people accessed this service using 475 gigabytes of free data.

## Roving Radish Expands at County Office Locations

To further encourage healthy farm-to-table eating habits for residents and county employees, the [Roving Radish](#) will add new stops at the George Howard Building in Ellicott City and the Ascend One Building in Columbia this season. Locally-sourced meal kits will be delivered to nine locations weekly starting the week of May 30.

Kits include two recipes and ingredients to prepare two meals for a family of four. Kits are \$28 (unless participants qualify for a subsidy) and weekly ordering begins May 20. Participate every week or occasionally through November. Program details, subsidy qualifications and pre-ordering can be accessed online.



*Volunteers prepare ingredients for hundreds of meal kits each week*



*Kittleman announced a capital commitment to the new library and 50+ center site in March*

## Construction Begins on Elkrige Library and 50+ Center

On May 16 at 2:30 p.m., the County will hold a [Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new Elkrige Branch Library](#) and 50+ Center at 6540 Washington Boulevard in Elkrige. The current branch closes on June 1 and the new facilities are scheduled for their Grand Opening in December 2017. The Howard County Library System expects to set up a temporary location near Elkrige Landing Middle School by mid-June. The senior center also will be announcing its

temporary location and operations during the construction.

## Land acquisition MOU helps secure new school and infrastructure site

This month, the County entered into an [agreement to purchase 70 acres off U.S. Route 1 in Jessup](#) for new school sites, a water storage facility and recreational amenities in the growing eastern part of Howard County. The Memorandum of Understanding with Chase Land LLC and Annapolis Junction Holdings L.P. covers terms of the sale, an installment plan for payment of the estimated \$23.1 million purchase price and development and environmental requirements.



*Kingdon Gould, Jr., President, Gould Property Company, joined Executive Kittleman to sign the agreement.*

## Dates to Remember

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>May 4 to 14</b>   | Openings of <a href="#">Howard County Farmers Markets</a>                                      |
| <b>May 13</b>        | <a href="#">County Council Public Hearing</a> - Capital and Operating Budgets                  |
| <b>May 21 and 22</b> | <a href="#">Wine in the Woods</a> at Symphony Woods in Columbia                                |
| <b>May 26</b>        | <a href="#">County Council Legislative Session</a> - adoption of FY 2017 budgets               |
| <b>May 30</b>        | Memorial Day - County offices closed, <a href="#">trash/recycling slide schedule</a> in effect |

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